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eral fact, which Mr. Rashdall states here less strongly than in his *Academy* articles, that the early universities originated in one of two ways, either in connection with cathedral or collegiate churches, which is impossible at Oxford, or in a migration from some older university. If this is the rule, as it seems to be, then the evidence must be regarded as establishing the strong probability of the theory, but without this it can only be regarded as possible.

Incidental points of interest are numerous throughout the work. The non-religious origin and character of the universities is made evident. The general prevalence of the system of colleges through the whole of Europe is brought out more clearly than by Paulsen even, or by any previous writer, as well as the additional fact that it was the better instruction given which put the colleges in the place of the university at Oxford. It is amusing just now to find that Bologna was forced by the competition of other towns to pay its professors a regular salary, as had not been done before, in order to hold them. The antiquity of hazing and of college initiations is clearly proved, and ancient faculties evidently had some trouble with athletics; at least they applied the term "insolent game" to bat and ball and "indecent" to tennis, but the Yale student can plead a hoary antiquity, if he pleases, for his custom of playing with a soft ball within the college quadrangle.

Mr. Rashdall does not hesitate in passing to express his mind freely and with emphasis on current questions of university management, or upon the "vandalistic reforms" of the day. The closing section is a brief but very interesting passage upon the light which this period of university history throws upon the problems of the present. One sentence here deserves quotation. He says: "University institutions must undergo perpetual modification in the future as they have undergone perpetual modification in the past. But it is well in this, as in the wider fields of social, political, and religious organization, as far as possible to preserve historical continuity. We should avoid the wanton introduction of an historical solecism where an adhesion to ancient form and usage would be quite as easy, the wanton destruction of ancient institutions where a slight modification of them would serve as well, the wanton abandonment of ancient customs and traditions where they are neither harmful nor burdensome." The reading of the book leads, indeed, to a new confidence in the belief that the strength of any system of higher education is in the naturalness of its development and emphasizes the warning of experience against attempts to modify such a development artificially either by the transplanting of foreign institutions or by attempting to carry out educational theories which diverge too widely from the indigenous type.

GEORGE B. ADAMS.

Geschichte Spaniens von den frühesten Zeiten bis auf die Gegenwart.

Von Dr. GUSTAV DIERCKS. (Berlin: Siegfried Cronbach. 1895.
Two vols., pp. viii, 442; iv, 707.)

WITHIN the space of somewhat more than eleven hundred pages the author of these volumes has undertaken to present a compact account of

the historical development of Spain. His theme is the whole course of the events in which the dwellers on Spanish soil have been interested, from the settlements of the Phenicians to the birth of the present youthful king. The great divisions of the material here included, the domination of the Romans, the invasion of the Goths, the conquests of the Mohammedans, the rise of the Christian kingdoms, and the triumph and union of the Christians follow one another like the acts of a great drama; and in presenting a general view of the whole period one might be expected to allow his work to be more or less influenced by the dramatic character of his subject. In this case, however, there are few signs of such influence. The qualities of the book in question suggest that the writer had planned an abridged chronicle rather than a general history of Spain. If he had intended to construct a narrative which should leave on the mind a clear and truthful impression of the main features of social progress in Spain, it is legitimate to assume that he would have made a special effort to set forth the several parts of the picture in correct perspective. Other qualities are here discovered which indicate that whatever may have been planned, the work produced has many of the characteristics of a chronicle. Some of these are a very sparing use of general statements, an endless procession of facts stated in conventional form, and such an array of personal names as to make it impossible to see the social groups in action, by reason of the multitude of individuals. In spite of the attractiveness of the subject, the striking crises, the brilliant characters, and the strong lines of original development, our author appears to have found little inspiration in it. He turns to his undertaking as one takes up a wearisome trade, and indicates his attitude towards it in different parts of the preface; in three separate paragraphs he refers to the production of this book as a thankless task. After this the reader need not be surprised if he finds in it a certain lack of spirit, or a lack of those qualities which enable him to derive from it an easily remembered general view of the historical development of Spain. It may, however, be found to be useful in other ways. As an extended syllabus, covering all periods of Spanish history, it may be of service to the student entering upon an elaborate study of this subject. Yet for this purpose it lacks one of the requisites of a guide; it contains no account of the original sources, and no references to the works embodying the results of previous investigations. That the parts of this book devoted to the institutions and civilization of Spain are so limited in extent and superficial in character may, perhaps, be due to the fact that the author has for twenty years been collecting material for a thorough and special work on this subject (Vorwort, v), and has consequently not wished to waste his thunder on an outline with the scope and purpose of the present volumes.

The chapters which deal with the period of Mohammedan conquest and rule enter largely into the details of internal movement, but afford very few enlightening glimpses into the forms of culture and the methods of social action. If one is already familiar with the Mohammedan history

of Spain, these accounts of wars and insurrections, and the multitude of names of legitimate and illegitimate leaders, may suggest the flesh and blood which belong to the skeleton ; but to one who has not this extensive knowledge the skeleton remains a skeleton, and suggests only its own painful presence. Reading the pages under the heading, "The Arabian Culture of Spain," does not impose the necessity of an extensive modification of this statement ; for while they contain many important facts concerning the Mohammedan civilization of the period, these facts are not presented in such an organized form as to make a single strong general impression. The two hundred and fifty pages of the fourth book, embracing the reigns of the Hapsburg rulers, are much more satisfactory than other parts of the work, which deal with subjects less familiar to the ordinary students of European history. The investigations of previous writers have made the way through this period very plain, and the dependence of external events on certain conspicuous dominating ideas of the time has made easy a broad and general treatment of it. In this period of Spain's external expansion, her striking foreign relations attracted the attention of the world ; and by the fact of her conspicuous position foreign historians have been led to give much space to the record of her affairs at this time. Yet it was a period of internal decline. In the two hundred years previous to the close of the seventeenth century, the country had lost nearly four millions of its inhabitants, leaving only six millions. The eighteenth century, on the other hand, was a period of recovery, in which the population of Spain rose from six millions to ten and a half millions. Although in this period the government was obliged to acknowledge the defeat of its ancient commercial policy with respect to the colonial possessions, yet the nation as a whole, however weak and inefficient some of the rulers may have been, grew in wealth and population, and passed through various stages of recuperation. It is this fact that entitles the affairs of Spain in the eighteenth century to a larger place in history than is likely to be given them by those who think of that century simply as a period of collapse after the culmination of the nation's greatness. The comparatively small number of pages devoted to it by Dr. Diercks seems to indicate an underestimate of its historical significance. The portion of the book which treats of the affairs of the present century will probably be read with more interest than any other, inasmuch as it is one of a few attempts to combine in a single brief account the various phases of Spanish life in an age of apparently hopeless confusion. From these chapters one may get a fairly clear view of the main movements in a very complicated game, and the impartiality of the writer prevents the view from being one-sided. In dealing with subjects in themselves complex, like the struggles of the Spanish political parties in the present century, Dr. Diercks is aided by a clear style ; in fact, this is a conspicuous quality of his writing throughout the book.

BERNARD MOSES.